

09/647780-#6/A

01/23/00 PCT/PTO

26 DEC 2000

PATENT

5/2/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

OUIMET et al.

Serial No.: 09/647,780

Examiner:

Filed: October 5, 2000

Art Unit:

National Stage of PCT/FR99/0807

For: NOVEL NEP II MEMBRANE
METALOPROTEASE AND ITS USE FOR
SCREENING ...

Docket No.: P06910US0/BAS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

S I R:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After Page 14, please insert the attached Sequence Listing (12 pages) and delete the Sequence Listing previously included in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 9 as follows:

--9. (Amended) A method for detecting the expression of the NEP II polypeptide in a cell or tissue sample or in cells or a tissue, by *in situ* hybridization, comprising the steps consisting in:

- preparing the RNA of said sample or of said cells or of said tissue;

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